

## New England Common Assessment Program

# Practice Test Science Inquiry Task *Test Administrator Manual*2008

Grade 11
Acid Lakes

#### Introduction

An Inquiry Task is a performance assessment that measures students' knowledge and skills across the Four Broad Areas of Inquiry: 1) Formulating Questions and Hypothesizing; 2) Planning and Critiquing Investigations; 3) Conducting Investigations; and, 4) Developing and Evaluating Explanations. The Inquiry Task is structured around grade-appropriate science content. During the Inquiry Task, students work collaboratively and individually to demonstrate their scientific thinking.

The Task & Answer Booklet, *Test Administrator Manual*, and support documents that relate to this task have been posted on the Web sites of the New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont Departments of Education.

#### **Inventory Test Materials**

Please also make sure that you have sufficient Task & Answer Booklets, number 2 pencils, and scratch paper for each student.

You should have an additional Task & Answer Booklet for yourself.

#### **Materials Permitted and Prohibited During Testing**

The test administrator is responsible for providing an appropriate testing environment for the assessment. Students may use **only** the materials permitted for the assessment. Allowable materials are the Task & Answer Booklet, scratch paper, and number 2 pencil.

The test items in the Inquiry Task are designed so that calculators are not required to solve any of the problems; therefore, calculators are not needed for the assessment.

Dictionaries, thesauruses, and text books of any type—except for word-to-word translation dictionaries allowed as an accommodation for English Language Learners—are not allowed during this session of the assessment.

**NOTE:** The format of the grade 11 NECAP Science practice test inquiry task differs from the format of the grade 11 NECAP Science operational assessment that will be administered in May 2008. The operational assessment consists of both a Student Task Booklet and a separate Student Answer Booklet. Items and answer spaces are not integrated as they are in the practice test.

#### **Preparing Students and Testing Site**

It is important to let your students know what to expect. Your students should be supported and encouraged to do their best on this Inquiry Task.

No students should be either advantaged or disadvantaged by their testing environment. Reference materials, including those on classroom walls, should not be used by students. All science reference materials (printed or attached) on student desks should be removed or covered. Any displayed science materials in the classroom that interfere with proper test administration are not permitted. It is not possible to list all classroom materials that may potentially create an advantage or disadvantage for students during testing; if in doubt, remove or cover the materials or reposition students' desks so the materials cannot be viewed. If there are any questions, see your test coordinator.

Identify students who require an individual administration, additional time, or other accommodations prior to testing. A different location may be needed.

#### **Test Administration**

The following pages detail the procedures to be followed for the Inquiry Task. To ensure a consistent and accurate task administration, directions and a script are provided for the Inquiry Task. The script text is printed in bold type inside shaded boxes. Read the script exactly as it is written. In addition to the script text, directions for test administrators are provided; these directions are in regular type. You may repeat directions for your students and pronounce words, if necessary.

Be sure that students clearly understand all directions before they begin the Inquiry Task. During each part of the Inquiry Task, teachers should walk around the room to monitor students. Teachers should make sure students are recording their work in the correct places and are not spending too much time on any one part of the Inquiry Task. Students should be reminded to take the task seriously.

#### **Teachers should**

- check that students are staying on task and working effectively.
- check that students are recording their answers in the appropriate places in their Task & Answer Booklet.

#### **Teachers must not**

- comment on students' work.
- help students in any way, except as indicated in the script or directions.
- prompt students to revise or edit any of their responses during or after testing.
- allow students to read science-related materials after they complete any part of the task.

#### Test administrators may

- repeat directions as needed.
- pronounce words for individual students.

**Estimated Total Time: 75 minutes** 

#### Materials Needed for Each Student

- Task & Answer Booklet
- number 2 pencil
- scratch paper

NOTE: No other materials are allowed.

#### **Administration Directions and Script**

- 1. Pass out one Task & Answer Booklet and scratch paper to each student. Make sure each student has a number 2 pencil. Instruct the students to write their names on all of their materials. All test materials, including the scratch paper, will be collected at the end of the test.
- **2.** Say to the students:

This inquiry task will measure your ability to think scientifically. The task will ask you to hypothesize, plan and critique investigations, analyze data, and develop explanations. First you will read a short story, and then you will make predictions based on the information in the story. Next you will answer questions related to the story. You will have up to 75 minutes to complete the inquiry task.

Please open your Task & Answer Booklet to page 1. Please follow along as I read the directions aloud. (Read the directions to the students.) Are there any questions about the directions? (Answer any questions the students have about the directions.)

#### **3.** Say to the students:

Please begin by reading the story on page 1 in your Task & Answer Booklet. Then turn to page 2 and read the follow-up to the story. After reading the story on pages 1 and 2, answer the questions.

Answer questions 1 through 8 as completely as you can. You may include labeled drawings, diagrams, or bulleted lists to help explain your answers. Please write your answers so they fit only inside the answer spaces in your Task & Answer Booklet. You may use your scratch paper to plan your answers and make notes, but only what you write in the answer spaces in your Task & Answer Booklet will be scored. When you have finished, please insert your scratch paper into your Task & Answer Booklet for collection and sit quietly and read until everyone is finished.

**Are there any questions?** (Answer any questions the students have about the directions.)

You may begin.

- **4.** Circulate around the room during the test to make sure all students are actively engaged.
- **5.** Ensure that students who have finished sit quietly and read so they will not disturb those students who require more time.
- **6.** When the students are finished, collect all Task & Answer Booklets and scratch paper.